

Maine Child Passenger Safety Program

Distribution sites:

Located throughout the State of Maine, certified site technicians provide parents/caregivers with car seat education and car seats. Car seats are issued when eligibility criteria can be provided. One-on-one lessons are offered explaining the correct use and installation of car seats and seat belts.

Inspection stations:

Located throughout the State of Maine, certified station technicians provide parents/caregivers with car seat education. One-on-one lessons are offered explaining the correct use and installation of car seats and seat belts.

For a location near you, visit:

<http://www.maine.gov/dps/bhs/child-passenger-safety/cps-general/cps-intro.html>



Child Passenger Safety Program

The Maine Law – M.R.S.A. 29-A § 2081

Maine's Child Passenger Safety (CPS) law is one of the strongest in the country. The law requires that:

- Children who weigh less than 40 lbs. must ride properly secured in a child safety seat;
- Children who weigh between 40 lbs. and 79 lbs. **and** who are less than 8 yrs. old, must ride properly secured in a federally approved child restraint system;
- Children who are taller than 4 feet 9 inches in height and who are no longer using a child restraint system, must be properly secured with a seat belt and;
- Children who are under 12 yrs. old **and** who weigh less than 100 lbs. must be properly secured in the back seat of the vehicle, if possible.

Newest Federal Recommendations

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) recently released recommendations for children including:

- BIRTH – 12 MONTHS. Your child under age 1 should always ride in a rear facing seat. There are different types of rear-facing car seats: Infant-only seats can only be used rear facing. Convertible and 3-in-1 car seats typically have higher height and weight limits for the rear-

facing position, allowing you to keep your child rear-facing for a longer period of time.

- 1 – 3 YEARS. Keep your child rear-facing as long as possible. It's the best way to keep him or her safe. Your child should remain in a rear-facing car seat until he or she reaches the top height or weight limit allowed by your car seat's manufacturer. Once your child outgrows the rear-facing car seat, your child is ready to travel in a forward-facing car seat with a harness.
- 4 – 7 YEARS. Keep your child in a forward-facing car seat with a harness until he or she reaches the top height or weight limit allowed by your car seat's manufacturer. Once your child outgrows the forward-facing car seat with a harness, it's time to travel in a booster seat, but still in the back seat.
- 8 – 12 YEARS. Keep your child in a booster seat until he or she is big enough to fit in a seat belt properly. For a seat belt to fit properly the lap belt must lie snugly across the upper thighs, not the stomach. The shoulder belt should lie snug across the shoulder and chest and not cross the neck or face. Remember: your child should still ride in the back seat because it's safer there.